



Huron County Council Minutes - June 3, 2009

Seventh Session

GODERICH, ONTARIO



**SEVENTH SESSION
HURON COUNTY COUNCIL**

Goderich, Ontario.
June 3rd, 2009.

Huron County Council met in the Council Chambers on Wednesday June 3rd, 2009 at 9:06 a.m.

Chief Administrative Officer Adams called the roll and all members were present except for Councillors J. Bezaire and B. Dowson (Councillor B. Dowson arrived at 9:11 a.m.).

Warden K. Oke welcomed the members to the Session.

Warden Oke reviewed his Warden's report for the month of May. One of the highlights from his report was the OSUM Conference held in Cornwall. He reported there were excellent speakers and advised that in the Trade Show there were some tourism booths and he hoped that Huron County would be able to be involved in something like this in the future. Warden Oke advised that the OPP are celebrating their 100th Anniversary and he was hopeful that the County of Huron would consider sending a plaque to congratulate the OPP as well as in recognition of the County's appreciation. He requested this to be considered at an upcoming Committee of the Whole meeting. Warden Oke was also involved in a promotion for the Food Banks, living for two days on food from a hamper from the Food Bank. He commented on the challenge he encountered eating from tin cans with no fresh fruit or vegetables.

Warden Oke reported on the South West Local Health Integrated Network (LHIN) conference that he, CAO Adams and Treasurer Carey attended in Owen Sound. The message from Warden Oke was for any member of County Council who is able to attend the SW LHIN conference in London on Monday June 8th and/or Tuesday June 9th, should seriously consider doing so. It is imperative that the SW LHIN's staff acknowledge that rural municipalities with hospitals are not going to go down without a fight if the SW LHIN try to close any of our hospitals or withdraw the Emergency Room operation to anything less than 24 hours per day.

Warden Oke's final comment was a reminder to County Council members of the picture to be taken on July 8th.

MOTION: 65-09

Moved by: Councillor B. MacLellan and Seconded by: Councillor B. Siemon:
THAT:

The minutes of the previous sessions being; a Special Session on April 27th, the Sixth Session of May 6th, and the Special Session of May 19th, 2009 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

There were no declarations of pecuniary conflict of interest stated by any member of Council with regard to items on the Agenda.

PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS:

Queen of the Furrow – Melissa Sparling representing the Huron Plowmen's Association was to deliver a presentation regarding the Huron County Plowing Match to be held August 27th and 28th, 2009. Ms Sparling was not present at this meeting.

COUNCILLOR ISSUES:

Councillor Seili requested that the County of Huron Council consider an Interim Control By-law to prohibit wind turbines until the medical concerns for those residents in the surrounding area of the wind turbines have been confirmed or determined. He advised the County Planning Department has been helpful; however he is looking for the County to take the lead in this issue as municipalities are being split apart as some residents are in favour of wind turbines and other residents are greatly opposed.

Councillor Dykstra commented that the Green Energy Act would take precedence over a Municipal or County By-law. A great deal of discussion took place.

Director of Planning and Development Scott Tousaw advised that he would need to confirm with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing if an upper tier would be able to consider an Interim Control By-law for a lower tier municipality's zoning by-law. He will report at the Day 1 Committee of the Whole next Wednesday; June 10th.

Councillor Van Diepenbeek advised that there are plans to proceed with Phase 2 in Ashfield Colborne Wawanosh (ACW). A presentation was delivered to ACW Council last evening by the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA). The health concerns do not seem to be when there are one or two wind turbines, but when there is a cluster of the wind turbines. He also stated that the cables should all be buried along the roadways.

Councillor B. MacLellan advised he has a potential conflict with discussion surrounding wind farm by-laws.

Councillor MacLellan advised he will be absent for the next Board of Health meeting.

Councillor D. Kelly declared her intention to run for Warden in 2010 and is seeking support from her fellow Councillors in the election.

Councillor B. Dykstra asked if the Public Works Department had contacted the Exeter Goderich Rail to determine if they are willing to co-operate with the County to make a decision regarding the overhead Bridge on County Road 13 that was on the same line as the trestle bridge fire last week.

MOTION: 66-09

Moved by: Councillor B. Dykstra and Seconded by: Councillor J. Grace:

THAT:

The Director of Public Works be directed to contact Exeter Goderich Rail to determine if they are willing to co-operate with the County of Huron to repair the rail bridge on County Road 13; to make it a more accessible bridge for large trucks.

CARRIED

Councillor Dykstra reported that the Regional Equine & Agricultural Centre of Huron (R.E.A.C.H.) is progressing nicely. There will be a grand opening on September 11th and 12th. He appreciates the partnership with the County of Huron in this venture and hoped members of County Council will attend the grand opening.

Councillor M. Demaray requested an update on the methods used by the Board of Health regarding the sale of cigarettes to minors. Warden Oke advised Councillor Demaray that he would be able to inquire at an upcoming Board of Health meeting. Councillor Demaray is not a member of the Board of Health and therefore unable to ask questions at the next meeting. Warden Oke suggested that he inquire about this issue at the next County Council meeting and hopefully Dr. Cameron will have reported on this issue at the June Board of Health meeting.

Councillor N. Vincent advised he represented Warden Oke at a recent function in Wingham put on by the Wingham Fire Department. Councillor Vincent made a presentation to Warden Oke on behalf of the Wingham Fire Department of a plaque that gave recognition to the County of Huron for allowing their employees to be volunteer Fire Fighters with the Wingham Fire Department. The plaque stated that without this support from the County of Huron the Wingham Fire Department would be unable to provide the level of service that they do to their residents.

Warden Oke thanked Councillor Vincent for representing him at this presentation and received the plaque on behalf of the County.

Councillor Vincent further advised that he had attended a local TV rally for the A Station in London on May 23rd with Councillor D. Shewfelt. They were recognized for their municipality's support in the fight to stop the closure of the A Station in London and it's satellite in Wingham. Councillor Vincent requested the County forward a letter to the CRTC and the Federal Ministry of Heritage.

MOTION: 67-09

Moved by: Councillor N. Vincent and Seconded by: Councillor D. Kelly:

THAT:

The County of Huron forward a letter to the Federal Minister of Heritage and the CRTC advising the importance of the local A station to the residents of Huron County who rely on local news and weather.

CARRIED

Councillor N. Vincent invited everyone to attend the upcoming Musical Muskrat Festival on June 12th, 13th and 14th in Wingham at Riverside Park.

There is a rib contest on Friday June 12th and cardboard boat races. Councillor Kelly talked about the boat races and the fun that is involved in participating in them. Councillor Kelly hoped other municipalities would enter just for the fun of it.

Councillor B. Siemon requested Krauter Line in Huron East be reviewed by the Public Works Department as a road (1 ¼ mile) that should be uploaded to the County.

Director of Public Works Dave Laurie advised that in the past Ethel Line was County Road 19. It was a road that was downloaded to the municipality due to the traffic counts being so low (360 vehicles a day). If the traffic were to be rerouted and not go through Ethel there may be some negative feedback due to the economic impact it may have on the village.

Councillor B. Dowson requested Airport Line in the Municipality of Bluewater be studied at the same time.

Director of Public Works Laurie advised that the same would hold true in Exeter if the County were to upload Airport Line; it would be taking traffic out of downtown Exeter.

Councillor Shewfelt inquired if this was an item passed in the budget. Warden Oke declared that this was a report and no action would be taken at this time.

Director Laurie advised the cost of doing report is an internal cost and that traffic counts are being done this year.

MOTION:

Moved by: Councillor B. Siemon and Seconded by Councillor B. MacLellan:

THAT:

The Public Works Department be directed to research Krauter Line being uploaded by the County of Huron.

MOTION: 68-09

Moved by: Councillor B. Dowson and Seconded by: Councillor J. Fergusson:

THAT:

Motion Con't. on Page 6.

Motion Con't. from Page 5.

An amendment to the previous Motion to have all roads in the County of Huron be looked at that have a traffic count above a certain level.

DEFEATED

MOTION: 69-09

Moved by: Councillor B. Siemon and Seconded by Councillor B. MacLellan:
THAT:

The Public Works Department be directed to research Krauter Line being uploaded by the County of Huron.

DEFEATED

Councillor Seili commented that the County should keep up the pressure on the Province to repair their roads. The reason people are travelling on County and lower tier Roads is because of the poor condition of the Provincial Roads.

Councillor Seili advised he will be absent at the next meeting (Day 1 Committee of the Whole). He requested Council to allow Mr. Flowers attend the meeting in his place when the wind turbines are going to be discussed

CAO Adams advised there is no legislation in place that will allow a member of the public to attend as a member of County Council. However, the meetings are open to the public and he would be welcome to attend as an observer or be placed on the agenda as a Delegation.

It was suggested by Councillor MacLellan that Mr. Flowers be afforded the opportunity to speak at the next meeting. Director of Planning and Development Scott Tousaw cautioned Council that they not appear to be holding a Public Meeting for Council to consider wind turbines at the next Committee of the Whole Day 1 meeting.

Warden Oke advised that if someone wants to be a delegation they are to contact staff and follow the appropriate process.

CORRESPONDENCE:

CAO Adams advised two items were handed out prior to the session. Huron Tourism News featured stories about the Blyth Festival Award returns home in 2009 and the Huron Economic Development Matters partnership wins Ontario Economic Development Award. The other correspondence was the South West Community Care Access Centre – Connecting with Care through Partnership.

An invitation to attend the Southwest Economic Alliance (SWEA) Conference, June 12th. This is the same day as the Western Ontario Warden's Caucus video conferencing and the Emergency Exercise.

CAO Adams reiterated the importance of attending the South West LHIN Conference in Owen Sound. CAO Adams advised that according to the SW LHIN smaller ERs are a major concern that they may be closed. This has been demonstrated in Quinte West and also in the Lambton area. There is another SW LHIN Conference in London next week and with the larger municipalities that are involved in this Conference such as London, it is essential that representation from rural municipalities be in attendance. These sessions are setting out the blueprint for future health care in our area. It has intricate effects regarding the work of our Public Health and Emergency Management Services. CAO Adams encouraged anyone who plans to attend to express their concerns.

Councillor Vincent intends to be present in London. He would appreciate anyone else who plans to attend that they compare notes in terms of the sessions they will be attending.

Councillor Kelly questioned sending a letter as a follow up to the Seaforth ER being closed and for the County to state their position about the ER staying open 24 hours a day.

MOTION: 70-09

Moved by: Councillor D. Kelly and seconded by: Councillor J. Seili:

THAT:

The County of Huron forward a letter to the SW LHIN stating our position as it refers to the Seaforth Emergency Room (ER) be allowed to stay open 24 hours a day.

CARRIED

Councillor Seili advised that the Mayors and Wardens of Huron Perth could attend a SW LHIN meeting, however when they go In Camera, decisions are made and the Mayor and Wardens are not allowed in the In Camera session.

Councillor Shewfelt advised that the Fort Erie hospital is slated to close. Councillor Seili requested the County forward a letter of support to Fort Erie.

MOTION: 71-09

Moved by: Councillor J. Seili and Seconded by: Councillor D. Shewfelt:

THAT:

A letter of support be sent to Fort Erie from the County of Huron.

CARRIED

Warden declared a coffee break at 10:15 a.m. and resumed the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

The report of the Board of Health dated May 13th, 2009 was presented.

MOTION: 72-09

Moved by: Councillor D. Johnston and Seconded by: Councillor J. Grace:

THAT:

The Board of Health Report be received and will appear in the printed minutes as Report No. 26.

CARRIED

The report of the Committee of the Whole – Day 1 dated May 13th, 2009 was presented.

Councillor Siemon advised of an error on Page 9 of the minutes; that it should be Councillors Seili and MacLellan attending the public open house in Seaforth on June 25th; instead of him. The minutes will be amended to reflect this omission.

MOTION: 73-09

Moved by: Councillor J. Fergusson and Seconded by: Councillor N. Vincent:
THAT:

The Committee of the Whole – Day 1 Report be adopted as presented and will appear in the printed minutes as Report No. 27.

CARRIED

The report of the Library Board dated May 19th, 2009 was presented.

MOTION: 74-09

Moved by: Councillor Siemon and Seconded by: Councillor D. Kelly:
THAT:

The Library Board Report be received and will appear in the printed Minutes as Report 28.

CARRIED

Councillor B. MacLellan requested clarification as to the ways of cutting costs that are mentioned in the minutes of the Library Board. Warden Oke confirmed that a suggestion was made for ways to cut costs may be to limit the number of Board members attending the Library Conference and another suggestion was to have local representation volunteer as Board members.

Warden Oke reviewed briefly the composition of other Library Boards was discussed. Councillor Kelly requested a clarification as to there being a motion on the books to review the Library Board composition at the end of this year? Councillor Shewfelt advised through a "point of order" that a motion has been passed by County Council for Senior Management to do a Service Deliver Review. He felt in fairness to the Manager, to let the Manager come in and suggest ways of cutting costs and Council can debate the Library Board composition at that time.

The report of the Committee of the Whole Council – Day 2 dated May 19th, 2009 was presented.

Councillor Johnston requested more discussion regarding the decision of Committee to eliminate lunches at the Committee of the Whole meetings.

MOTION: 75-09

Moved by: Councillor B. Dowson and Seconded by: Councillor B. MacLellan:

THAT:

The Committee of the Whole – Day 2 Report be adopted as presented and will appear in the printed minutes as Report No. 29 with motion of lunches removed.

CARRIED

A lengthily debate ensure about having a lunch break and who would pay for the lunches for Council, senior staff and the media.

MOTION: 76-09

Moved by: Councillor D. Shewfelt and Seconded by: Councillor B. Siemon:

THAT:

The lunches provided at the Committee of the Whole Day 1 and Day 2 be discontinued.

Councillor Dykstra requested a Recorded Vote.

RECORDED VOTE

YEAS: Robertson, Siemon, Scott, Demaray, Collyer, Seili,
Johnston, Dowson, Shewfelt, Kelly, MacLellan = 11

NAYS: Dykstra, Oke, Dietrich, Van Diepenbeek, Vincent,
Fergusson, Grace, Rintoul = 8

ABSENT: Bezaire = 1

CARRIED

INQUIRIES:

There were no inquiries.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no unfinished business discussed.

PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD:

There were no questions from the public.

BY-LAWS:

MOTION: 77-09

Moved by: Councillor Vincent and Seconded by: Councillor Van Diepenbeek
THAT:

Leave be given to introduce the following By-law:

By-law No. 11-2009; being a By-law to authorize speed limits in the
County of Huron.

CARRIED

MOTION: 78-09

Moved by: Councillor M. Demaray and Seconded by: Councillor T. Collyer:
THAT:

By-law No. 11-2009, be given a first and second reading.

CARRIED

MOTION: 79-09

Moved by: Councillor B. Siemon and Seconded by: Councillor D. Shewfelt:
THAT:

By-law No. 11-2009, as read a first and second time, be passed.

CARRIED

Councillor MacLellan requested an explanation about the Schedule to the By-law. After some discussion it was agreed to hold off on the Third Reading of this By-law until a map was prepared for Council to show the various speed limits along the County roadways.

MOTION: 80-09

Moved by: Councillor and Seconded by: Councillor:
THAT:

County Council do now adjourn at 11:07 a.m. to meet on Wednesday, July 8th, 2009 or at the call of the Warden and Clerk.

CARRIED

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The Session closed with the singing of O Canada.

Warden Ken Oke

Clerk Barbara L. Wilson